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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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FUSS-IN-THE-CORNER.

Two little hands hiding two roguish eyes,
Dear, sunny head that is ever so wise;
Darting is laughing and shouting with glee,
Playing at puss-in-the-corner with me.
Father the prettiest fog'er the floor.
Never was seen such a playmate before;
Sly little one, in a way most unfair,
You say contact before I'm aware!

Here is our playground—the sunshiny room—
Never has fallen a shadow of gloom;
Darling is teaching me sweet little games,
Where little maids take no shame to their names.
Clover-bud mouth held to mine to be kissed;
Silver-toned voice—how that voice would be missed!
A corner you've won—did you know this before?
Deep in my heart to be kept evermore!

THE SALT OF THE EARTH.

A NEW YORK EPISODE.

BY EDITH BROWN NELSON.

Author of "Joined for Life," "Hidden From Sight," "Tales of the Period," "My Schoolmate's Story," Etc., Etc.

CHAPTER IV.

Most fortunately, as it happened, Aunt Flavia did not come home till long after my return, that memorable Sunday, from Mrs. Houghton's. Minette, that faithful dragon, had evidently received instructions to watch me closely during the absence of her mistress, and would be sure to inform her that I had come home in the company of Dr. Feather; but she did not know certainly where I had been. I felt myself safe and decidedly soothed by the Englishman's parting words, since they evidently implied an intention on his part of coming to see me on the morrow, and explaining away, perhaps, some of my troubles. He was my father's friend, and acted as if he intended to be mine, too, although his manners were so boorish. But then, I argued, all good people make themselves disagreeable. Fine health and a sanguine temperament tosses off anxiety easily as elder down, and I went down to breakfast looking so *roué* that Aunt Flavia regarded me with momentary surprise. But as she had evidently adopted the policy of Louis the Eleventh, "*dissimuler et voyager*," I would not be outdone, and displayed fine spirits and fine appetite during the meal. I was prepared for a cross-examination as to where I had been yesterday, but no questions were asked, which complicated matters still more. One observation she dropped, however, which was very characteristic of her ruling passion, *vox populi*, and related to me, in the conviction she knew already, in some mysterious way, of Syd's folly and the consequent gossip in fashionable circles that would ensue.

It was when Peter entered to announce that my dearest friend, Delia Drummond, had called at this early hour to see me. Now, I was prepared for two reasons why I did not wish to be upset by any further distraction till Dr. Feather's call, and also, I dreaded that one of Delia's usual prolonged visits would prevent any private discussion of my affairs, and I asked Aunt, with a weary yawn, if she would not go and excuse me on the score of a bad headache.

"No, Celestia, that will never do," said Auntie, "this unfortunate affair about poor Spencer will be talked about everywhere before night. Its in the papers this morning. You must tell Delia as much as you think will be necessary to stop the circulation of unwise stories."

It astonished me to be received so rebuke with this piece of worldly counsel, but there was no displeasure on that calm brow. More puzzled than ever, I took her advice and proceeded to the salon.

My dearest friend ran up to embrace me, *avec effusion*, looking very pretty and affectionate. What an expressive term that is, half of tenderness, half of antipathy, that I had to repeat the question before he could understand me said so little.

"O, ay," he said, absently, "why, I have been an unseen listener to fashionable ladies' gossip for the last hour. I had my breakfast long before your eyes were open this morning, and was lounging out there among your roses and the birds."

Why, the man spoke as though he had lived in the same house with us all his life, and at what time in the morning could he have called?

I suppose he took pity on my mystified mind at length, for in the most matter-of-fact tone presently he informed me that he had met my aunt at the house of a friend, and patient, to whom he had to pay a visit, after escorting me safely home, and that as he was papa's friend, she had asked him to make her house his home while he remained in New York. "O, I understand it all now," I said bitterly, and rose to leave him without a word. There *was* some conspiracy now against me, and even this stranger was to be brought into it. Every effort was to be made to rob me of my inheritance. With lightning intuition the doctor caught and quenched my suspicions.

"What a child you are in action, though a woman of the world in talk;" he said, following and setting his back deliberately against the door I was opening. "Now Miss Doolittle I will own I wanted to thoroughly study out your difficulties and remove them, if possible, for the sake of both your father and yourself. That is why I am going to disgrace your gorgeous parlors, with my shabby coat for a few days." This amply explained everything to my satisfaction of course. Was papa's friend. What so natural as that Aunt Flabia should give him a courteous invitation to visit with us? The arrangements would elucidate too, I hoped a number of pleasant pieces of information about the father I had never seen, and the Smoky City I longed to visit. But instead of directly reverting to these topics of interest, he must needs begin by pleading the cause of that nuisance, Syd.

"O, dear, I don't care to hear about him, now that you assure me he is as well as ever again. I suppose I shall see him soon enough," I said, wearily leaning back my head. "I *was* wrong to encourage such a silly boy, and there's no matter ends, as I have told papa already."

"You have not written to him, yet?" he inquired so eagerly, so anxiously, that I looked him in astonishment. Then he added, with an embarrassed laugh:

"Of course it does not signify in the least, but I thought you had better wait till I see him myself, on my return."

"Well, may be I will turn it, or charge you with it, for it is not mailed yet," I said.

The relief of his manner the moment said this puzzled me, at the time. Ah, me, I knew the reason well enough later. After this I determined to set at rest, once and forever, the Doctor's evident notion that I was a romantic rich girl, only trying to curb my real affections for my own worldly advantage. I went for the letter I had written and read it to him. Would you believe it? the ridiculous being thereupon sat down deliberately at my side, and began to plead that bodiless illusion, a love match, so eloquently, that he began by making me laugh and ended by making me cry again. Verily, if I was worried much more, I should turn into a veritable Undine.

"O, why, why, will not everybody else understand what Syd and I do, perfectly?" I burst out in desperation. "I suppose a man expects as much affection in his wife, anyway, as she can share with a new waist-coat pompadour. Now, I feel happier at Stewart's counter, than in Syd's company at home, and he would soon cease to care for me if I went around grumbling in a log cabin all the time "fixing" corn cakes. Now as the wife of some railroad king or heavy grain merchant, I shall do my duty and like honors of a large establishment with equal facility.

Ah! you look terribly shocked, but there are a hundred girls in New York who think the same things, what is that?" An honest enough to say so. I love dress a great deal better than I ever expect to love poor Syd. If I ever really love—but pshaw! I cannot afford it. On like fine occasion I mean to advise him to go out West in order to get me out of his head, and some real, sweet little domestic treasure in. It is just because I am not worth half the good, self-sacrificing women in the world that he has this craze about me, and I guess all men go crazy when they can't have their own way."

"Is that the only reason for a wise man going mad or doing worse, laying waste a noble life for a beautiful fool?" my companion inquired, with singular violence. "O, you beautiful women, with such wonderful opportunities for good, why do you always delight in exchanging a divine mould for a thing half doll, half devil?" He rose to leave me, disgusted, I suppose, but with the chief object of his interview unachieved I would not let him go.

"O, I pray your patience, doctor! Remember I was brought up in New York instead of Utopia, and if you are papa's friend, surely you approve of his system of education?"

"It was a mistake, a complete mistake." He said this as though to himself, but I answered him indignantly, "You shall not say a word against my papa, for he has always been most kind and indulgent in every way till now that he is offended. But, oh doctor, do tell me one thing. I think of it just this moment. Is papa in any financial trouble?" That, perhaps, may make him willing I should settle in life and be taken care of by any one, rich or poor, in case I lose my own beautiful home!"

"No," he said gravely, "Mr. Doolittle is one of the largest mill-owners in Pittsburgh, and quite untouched by the late panic."

"Then what do you think is the reason for such an extraordinary letter?" I said, directly coming to the point.

"Perhaps he thinks he knows life better than his daughter does and tries, hard to save her from sacrificing herself."

"To what?"

"To a false instead of a real conception of happiness. Believe me, his letter was partly written in that spirit."

"You may well say partly," I rejoined, nettled at the idea that probably this family friend had helped my father to concoct the billet in question, "for I'm sure he is angry and offended too. What a curious, eccentric man he must be, and very hard, I am afraid."

"Cruelly, cruelly hard, my little girl." Again that wonderful, that inexplicable tenderness of tone and expression fell upon me! I began really to value this eccentric individual's good opinion more than I knew myself at the time.

"O well," I answered, with the bright confidence which youth, immortal youth, has in fortuitous circumstance.

If you help me, as you are such a friend of his, I will not despair of his forgiveness. 'Tis a very slight offense, after all. It would be nothing, indeed, but for the interference of a certain mischevious—"

I stopped my nimble tongue only just in time. Full of smiles and rustling ribbons, enter Aunt Flavia.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

A YOUNG GIRL'S MADNESS.

Excited on Religious Topics, She Erects a Funeral Pyre and Burns Herself to Death.

HONESDALE, PA., January 15.—The country around here is greatly excited over the unparalleled affair that has just been brought to light in the case of Cyrus Hacker, an intelligent and beautiful young lady, at White's Valley, sixteen miles west of this place, who deliberately burned herself to death on Wednesday, while under the influence of extraordinary religious fanaticism. She was the daughter of William Hacker, a wealthy and prominent farmer of the county. For seven or five or six years past she has at times been subject to temporary insanity, during which fits she imagined that she had committed some sin against "the Unpardonable" which could only be absolved by the making of burnt offerings.

While laboring under this mental hallucination, she would erect altars in the fields of her father's farm and sacrifice lambs to appease the wrath of her offended deity, and also burn clothing and household articles of different kinds. Her father (a widower), fearing that she might, during one of these intervals, do herself bodily harm, kept a strict watch on her movements.

On Wednesday Mr. Hacker had occasion to go to a neighboring village, and as his daughter manifested signs of the recurrence of one of her insane intervals, he charged his hired man to watch her during his absence. At noon the man went to his dinner, leaving the young lady in the kitchen reading the Bible. For some reason he did not return to the house until Mr. Hacker came back, which was about two o'clock.

When the latter entered his kitchen he was paralyzed with horror at the sight that confronted him. In the centre of the room of what had evidently been one of Miss Hacker's altars, lay the body of his daughter, literally burned to a crisp. The face was the only part not burned, and notwithstanding the intense agony that she must have endured, her features were not distorted in the least, but wore an expression calm and peaceful. Her lips being parted in a smile, as if she died believing that through that fiery ordeal she was to pass into a joyful eternity.

It appears that while the hired man was absent Miss Hacker had formed out of a set of quilting frames a pyre or altar. On this she had spread some carpet, and made herself a pillow. When found she lay on her right side, with her cheek resting on her hand. Everything seemed to indicate that this was the position she had taken at first, and from which she had not moved. At one side of the altar she had piled up a quantity of combustible wood, and when all was in readiness had fired it, from which the flames soon spread and enveloped the altar.

In the family Bible, which was found open at the Book of Job, the following note was found in the handwriting of the deceased:

DEAR FATHER: My Immanuel appeared to me to-day. He reveals to me the fact that I have committed the unpardonable sin, which I can only obtain forgiveness for by passing through the cleansing of fire. I am interceding for you, my child father. You will find my purified body in the northeast corner of the house. I wish to have my ashes buried in my Immanuel's ground, at the northwest corner of the house. Good-bye. Meet me on the Celestial ground. CISSY.

Mr. Hacker went to the corner of the house indicated in the note as the spot where the remains would be found, and found that his daughter had staked out there a space for her grave.

Martin Prentiss, Esq., summoned a jury and held an inquest on the remains. A verdict in accordance with the above facts was rendered.

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

CONFIDENCE IN ANIMALS.

There are, probably, few persons familiar with farm life who have not observed a marked contrast between the general character and appearance of the domestic animals kept on different farms within the same neighborhood.

On approaching some farm houses, the first salutation comes from a noisy, growling dog, who seems to take you for a trespasser. Then a fierce man, or woman, who divides his energies between welcoming you and scolding the dog for not behaving better. You visit the barn, and as you open the door, a frightened cat runs across the floor, and with one look back at you from her great eyes, disappears through the hole in the floor, or out at a broken window.

The horses lay back their ears, squeal and kick the sides of their stalls, as much as to say, "We feel cross and can't help acting it, too." The oxen and cows start back as you pass them as if they feared they would be hit with a fork, and the young calves and pigs scamper to the farthest corners of their pens, and even the chickens seem to be found you shall have all the room to yourself.

DEATH IN THE CELLAR.

Many farmers are in the habit of putting all kinds of vegetables in the cellar and then banking close, and presently all sorts of odors come from the cellars, for if there are onions, turnips, potatoes, apples and pork, often butter and milk are kept there, and one imparts odor to the other, making a perverted mixture comparable to the victuals of a Dutch boarding house, where everything is sour but the vinegar. Vegetables that impart a strong odor should not be put in the cellar at all, or at least only in small quantities. For instance, not a bushel of turnips should ever be put in a cellar, but some put in the crop of an acre of ruta bagas, which soon begin to sweat, when they taint the whole house. The true way is to have an out-door cellar for vegetables, especially south of Pennsylvania. A cellar under a barn is useful, and there all the odorous vegetables could be stored, permitting the cellar under the house to be kept as sweet and clean as any of the rooms above. Medical men are well aware that cellars originate fevers, and some here have given the name "cellar-fever" to the disease that originates from foul cellars.

PUMPKINS FOR MILK COWS.

Pumpkins will rot sooner in cellars than above ground unless the cellar is very dry and cool. If kept dry and just above the freezing point they may, by careful sorting, be kept sound till midwinter, and as long as they are good for milk cows, making rich and fine flavored milk and beautiful yellow butter. They make better milk than beets or turnips, but have less fattening properties than beets, mangolds, turnips, carrots or parsnips. They contain more water and less organic matter than any of the roots above named, and hence a greater weight must be taken to produce equal results. They are easily raised and are valuable in their season for the sake of variety in feed, but should not be relied on as the main substitute for roots, first, because they are too perishable and short lived to last till late winter and spring, when green and succulent food is most valuable, and second by reason of a smaller and more uncertain yield. An acre of good ground will easily produce forty tons of beets or mangolds, while half that amount more will be a good yield for the same land in pumpkins.

A TIMELY SUGGESTION.

A correspondent writes: How to keep water in the barnyard from freezing in the trough is a problem which I wish someone would solve. It is quite a trouble to have to cut out two or three inches of ice every morning, in cold weather, beside wasting a great deal of water. I have been experimenting a little, and have found a way to somewhat modify the evil. When I go to the barn at nine o'clock in the evening there is generally quite a crust of ice in the trough. Through this I break at one end of the trough a small hole, and dip out three or four quarts of water, and the whole process of freezing has to be repeated. In the morning there will be two inches of ice, both quite thin, and it is not half the work to get them out that it is to cut out what will be produced if it is left undisturbed. It may be worth while for other farmers to try this method. It costs but little to do it, and with me it saves a good deal of work.

CRYSTALIZATION OF HONEY.

The action of light causes honey to crystallize. The difficulty may be obviated by keeping it in the dark, the change, it is said, being due to photographic action; and that the same agent that alters the molecular arrangements of iodide of silver on the excited callodian plate causes the syrup honey to assume a crystalic form. It is to this action of light that scientists attribute the workings of bees by night, and they are so careful to obscure the glass windows that are sometimes placed in their hives. Therefore, keep honey away from the light.

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., January 14, 1875.

SENATE.

The Speaker announced as to Centennial Committee Messrs. Anderson, of Crawford, McNeill, Davis, Axander, Dunkle, Nagle, Yerkes, Erfentrout, Bechtel, Wallace, Strang, Rutan ad Heilman.

The following bills were reported from committees: To prevent defendant from testifying in criminal cases; authorizing the entry of compulsory non-suits; empowering county commissioners to purchase toll bridges over streams and abolishing the tolls on the same; to further secure the rights of married women; a supplement to the partnership association act; and an act relating to the return of writs in court abolished or changed.

Mr. Anderson, on the act securing to married women their separate earnings, reported negatively, and the bill was recommitted.

The following bills were presented in place:

By Mr. Ermentrout—A supplement to the election law.

Mr. McMullen—A supplement to the game laws.

Mr. G. H. Anderson—Repealing the act of April 9, 1872; also regulating the election of school directors of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Cooper—An act authorizing surrender of franchises of turnpike and plankroad companies on any part of the road lying within cities.

Nominations for United States Senator were made as follows:

Mr. Rutan—Governor Hartranft.

Mr. Jones—B. Harris Brewster.

Mr. Cooper, of Butler—A. B. Strang.

Mr. G. H. Anderson—John Allison.

Mr. McNeill—John Scott.

Mr. Crouse—M. Hall Stanton.

Mr. Playford—Williamm A. Wallace.

Mr. McMullen—John Scofield.

Mr. Heilman—G. Dawson Coleman.

Mr. Dunkell—C. H. T. Collis.

Mr. G. H. Anderson—Russell Errett.

Mr. Winslow—John Allen.

Mr. Lamon—R. W. Mackey.

The resolution to print the Governor's message in Welsh was passed—32 to 11.

Messrs. Bechtel, Bardsley, Davis, Wherrell and Rutan were appointed a committee to arrange for the inauguration of Lieutenant Governor Latta next Tuesday.

The following bills passed first reading: To permit defendants to testify in criminal cases; to authorize the entry of compulsory non-suits; authorizing counties to buy toll bridges, and make them free; to enlarge the rights of married women; a supplement to the partnership associations act; relating to the return of writs in courts abolished or changed.

The following passed second reading: The Philadelphia alderman's bill; resolution increasing the officers of the two Houses; exempting coke companies from taxation.

The bill for the formation of wharf companies was recommitted.

HOUSE.

Nominations for United States Senator being in order, Mr. Faunce was appointed teller, and the following names were presented:

By Mr. Faunce—William A. Wallace.

Mr. Wendt—M. S. Quay.

Mr. Winslow—John Scott.

Mr. Brown, of Erie—John Scott.

Mr. Jackson—John Allison.

Mr. Hall—B. H. Brewster.

Mr. Newmyer—John D. Kelley.

Mr. Roney—R. W. Mackey.

Mr. Long—D. Agnew.

Mr. Huhn—Morton McMichael.

Mr. Vogelsong—Wm. Hemmick.

Mr. Ettla—O. J. Dickey.

Mr. Reyburn—H. C. Carey.

Mr. Christy—Russell Errett.

Mr. Bedford—C. H. T. Buckalew.

Mr. McKnight—George Lear.

Mr. Brown, of Northumberland—J. B. Packer.

Mr. Agnew—David Mackey.

A resolution raising a committee to investigate the State Treasury accounts during the terms of Messrs. Kemble, Irwin and Mackey, was offered and made the special order for Thursday next.

A resolution favoring an appropriation for Erie harbor was adopted.

Bills in place were read, as follows:

Mr. Reighard—To prevent damage and destruction to forests by fire from locomotive engines.

Mr. Hipple—To repeal the collateral inheritance tax.

Messrs. Wendt, Campbell and Vogdes—Regulating medical practice in the State.

Mr. Gunsaulus—To supplement to the act dividing cities into three classes.

Mr. Graham—Repealing the proviso to the act of last session providing a limit to the number of boys to be admitted to soldiers' orphans' schools.

Both Houses adjourned to Monday evening.

SENATE.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., January 18, 1875.

Bills were reported repealing the Pittsburgh law for electing school directors by precincts; also authorizing the trustees of the Erie Academy to lease a lot to the Young Men's Christian Association in that place.

Mr. Cooper offered a supplement to the Election law, providing for the preservation of ballots and other papers pending a contest in elections for members of Congress.

Mr. Alexander—Relating to official acts of notaries.

Mr. Lamon—Enabling citizens to hold titles previously held by aliens and corporations not entitled so to hold.

Mr. Bechtel—To provide for the payment of costs in cases where the venue is changed and no provision made for costs.

Mr. Jones—To enable guardians to bind out minors to the State.

Mr. Winslow—To punish the carrying of concealed weapons.

Mr. Jones—To provide for avarding charters to savings banks without quarters.

The Philadelphia Aldermen bill, the joint resolution increasing the officers of the two Houses and the bill exempting coke companies from taxation passed finally. The bill to increase the officers of the two Houses passed by a vote of 32 to 8. The yeas were 25 Republicans and 7 Democrats and the nays, 2 Republicans and 6 Democrats.

HOUSE.

The death of William H. Fagen, member from the Third district of Philadelphia, this morning, was announced by Mr. Spicer, who offered resolutions of respect and providing for a committee to attend the funeral. Mr. Huhn seconded the resolutions and pronounced an eulogy. Messrs. Spicer, Huhn, Hall, Billingsley, Faunce, Plummer and Piper were appointed as the committee.

The House then adjourned till eleven o'clock to-morrow morning.

THE SENATORIAL QUESTION

is ticklish. Mr. Wright, of Luzerne, is here and says he has four men who will vote for him against Wallace. If so, the lig is up. Buckalew and his lieutenants are here and are bitter against Wallace. The death of Mr. Fagen reduces the total vote to 245, without Wallace's vote necessary to a choice, 123. The Democratic vote is 126, and four off leaves Wallace in the vocative. Shrewd lookers on, however, do not believe there will be any bolt.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, January 15, 1875.

Buckalew made his appearance here today. Clymer, also, is here, and was in close consultation with the active men. The Wallace men are confident in their strength, but there is a manifest feeling of uneasiness among them, and they evidently dread the probability of a combination fatal to them. The opposition to Wallace is so very quiet and undemonstrative as to excite suspicion that it is working secretly. The rumor is that there are eight or nine Democrats who will in no event vote for Wallace. If so, he cannot be elected. The result of the caucus you will get by telegraph before this reaches your readers.

A good many bills were read in place in both Houses, of which the purport has been sent by telegraph. These bills are introduced by members because sent to them for that purpose, and their introduction is not to be taken as an indication of a desire to pass them. Many of them are pet hobbies in particular sections, and quite a number of them are revivals of measures that received their quietus last winter. The standing committees will negative a large portion of them, and others have but little chance of passage. It seems impossible to pass the financial bill of irresponsible but impracticable measures. They come as certain as the winter comes, and will disappear about the time the grass begins to sprout.

There is a very general desire for an adjournment, finally, about the middle of March; and if members will only vote as they talk, there will be no difficulty in getting through a resolution to that effect. The Senate will probably pass such a resolution, at an early day, and the House will concur, if it acts according to the judgment of its members.

The fact is that there is very little important legislation pressing for consideration at this session. The bills rendered necessary by the Constitution, and which failed of becoming laws last winter, will have to be acted on; but beyond bills of that class and the appropriation bills, there is nothing that needs very special attention, or that need detain the members here beyond the middle of March.

Among the bills passed in Senate to-day, and acted on was a concurrent resolution introduced by M. Anderson, of Allegheny, asking our Senators and Representatives in Congress to vote in favor of an appropriation for the permanent improvement of the Ohio river. The resolution passed unanimously and without debate. The House will have to act on it before it can be sent to Congress, but the friendly spirit shown it in the Senate is to be taken, I hope, as evidence that it will pass the House, which like manner. The Speaker of the House, apparently unaware of the difference between a concurrent and a joint resolution, stated it as the latter when it came to the House, and all the committees were announced. A joint resolution has to be treated the same as a bill, and requires the approval of the Governor, while a concurrent resolution, may be acted on as a mere motion, and is not submitted to the Governor for his signature. But for this mistake the House probably have concurred in the resolution to-day.

Mr. Bechtel introduced a similar resolution in favor of a strong protective tariff, which was ordered to be printed. It would have passed unanimously, but Mr. Bechtel desiring to be heard upon it before its passage, it went over to be calledup at some future day.

Mr. Newmyer also read resolutions sustaining the action of the National Administration in Louisiana, and as the Democratic resolutions of the same nature were yesterday sent to the Committee on Federal Relations, these were sent in the same direction without debate. SPECIAL.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburg Commercial.

HARRISBURG, January 14, 1875.

The Democratic Senatorial caucus, held to-day, drew hither all the prominent men of the party throughout the State, and in its result has demonstrated, what I have all along maintained, that Wallace's strength was overestimated. It was with standing the bitterness of the fight made upon him by Black, Buckalewand the New York papers, the vote cas against him in caucus scarcely amountal to the dignity of "scattering." A voteof barely twenty-two out of the grand total of one hundred and twenty-two cast, was a sorry answer to the multiplied assaults of the New York press and the legal circulars arguing against his eligibility.

Still, with all the weight of their preponderance, the Wallace men are not happy. They shake their heads in a very dismal, blandly, and then, with lengthened faces, sit down to figure the thing out. It was a glorious victory over Buckalew, Clymer and Black, and Wallace is going to be elected figures down on paper, they do not seem to come out right. They would all feel much better if they could be sure that the joint ballot on Wednesday would result as decisively as the one-sided ballot did to-day.

With both houses full the vote would be 251, making 126 necessary to a choice. Counting out Mr. Hannigdon, with the Republicans, and Sturteant, of Crawford, with the Democrats, the attor have 130 to 121 for the former. Two Democrats and two Republicans are safe, and Fagan, Democrat, of Philadelpia, is too ill to be present. This reduces the total to 246, and renders 124 necessary to a choice.

Now, if the vote in caucus, to-day, was only 122, and Fagn's vote was counted in that number, although not present, he having sent in a letter to that effect. As in caucus, however, he was not likely to be present, this practically reduces the vote to 121. Wallace was not present, and he cannot, of course, vote for himself on the joint ballot, and Mr. Bardsley, Irwin and Deyarman, of Fayette, were absent attending a funeral. Had they been here, as they will be next week, the total still only comes up to 125.

But this is not it. The vote on making the nomination unanimous was 116 to 3. Adding Wood and Deyarman to the 116, it makes 120 certain votes for Wallace, and 119 counting hi own vote. The problem, therefore, that others the Wallace men and keeps their pecils going steadily, is how those up to the 116 making the nomination unanimous will vote on joint ballot. The three recusants were Rowland, of Pike; McHenry, of Columbia, and Bedford, of Sullivan. In addition, Ryan, of Columbia, who was not in caucus, sympathizes with his colleague, McHenry. Sturtevant, of Cawford, did not commit himself by going into caucus, and Clarke, of Westmoreland, did not vote. The question before the meeting-house is, how will these six men vote next Wednesday? And there are several hundreds of anxious snoozers waiting an answer to that conundrum.

Conceding Wallace the 116 votes referred to, and those of Wood, Deyarman and Sturtevant, and he still lacks five of having enough. He may, and probably will, get them; but a man with chills and fever, who is just passing out of one into the other, does not feel a whit more miserable than the Democratic leaders feel to-night. The blowers and strikers are passing around, and coming to a focus, and there will be a fight, that this recusant and that will vote for Wallace, and all that kind of talk; but those of us who have been through just such fiery trials, in our own ranks, know, from looking at the faces of the managers, that they are sitting on the ragged edge of despair.

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The State Treasurer's report and that of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, sent into the Legislature to-day, show that the estimated income for 1875 is set down at $6,0.0,000. Of this sum, $2,509,000 goes into the sinking fund, leaving $3,500,000 for the general fund, and the State Treasurer estimates the annual expenditure at $4,000,000, leaving a deficiency of half a million. The interest of the funded debt is $1,400,000, leaving $1,100,000, or $1,200,000, by taking $100,000 from the balance on hand, applicable to the payment of the debt. The Commissioners of the Sinking Fund and the State Treasurer think that it would be better to reduce the payment on the debt to $700,000, and apply the odd $500,000 to the general fund, than attempt to raise that sum by increased taxation. They therefore propose that the legislation relative to the sinking fund should be revised so as to reduce the revenue to that fund to $2,000,000 and add the other half million to the general fund.

It would certainly be wiser, under present circumstances, to rearrange the destinations of the different sources of revenue than to seek for increased supplies by new taxes. The public debt is not now so heavy a burden that we need be desperate about paying it off. If we reduce it $700,000 yearly, we are doing very well. The bonds of the railroads now in the sinking fund, with the accrued interest thereon, amount to over ten millions, leaving an actual debt of only a little over fourteen millions. The public are not now in a condition to bear new taxes, especially when the only necessity for them grows out of a haste to reduce the State debt.

The figures may be thus concisely stated:

Revenue from all sources	$6,000,000
Expenses of the State government	4,000,000
Left for sinking fund	$2,000,000
Interest on public debt	1,400,000
	$600,000
Add reduction of balance in hand	100,000
Applicable to payment of debt	$700,000

If, however, no change should be made in the laws relative to the application of the revenue now provided for, the figures will stand thus:

Revenue from all sources	$6,000,000
Applicable to sinking fund	2,500,000
	$3,500,000
Annual expenses of State government	4,000,000
Deficit	$500,000

The balance of cash on hand December 1, 1874, was about $1,000,000. If the deficit is to come out of this we shall begin the year 1875 with but $500,000 cash on hand, and that would be used up on the same basis in 1876, leaving the Treasury empty in that year. No concern of the magnitude of our State government can get along without a large available balance on hand. The United States Treasurer finds it impossible to get along smoothly with a working balance of less than ten millions, and the State finds it essential to have a million or thereabouts always on hands, as a security against sudden contingencies.

SPECIAL.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, January 15, 1875.

Both Houses adjourned over last night Monday night, and members generally have scattered off home, leaving the Senatorial question to take care of itself. The Wallace men pretend to be very sure their man will go through, and have gone home apparently very sanguine of the result. Buckalew is on the ground, looking dissatisfied and distressed; but whether he can keep his men from voting for Wallace, or whether he will, if he can, are still unsolved problems. They can prevent Wallace's election, if they choose; but I have but little expectation that they will try.

Fagan, the Democratic representative from the Third ward, Philadelphia, is lying very ill, at his hotel, and is not expected to live. His death, if it occurs, will make the fifth, since the election of the present House.

In the Senate, Mr. Jones got up his resolution, again, to print 300 copies of the Governor's message in Welsh, modified so as to limit the cost to $40. A motion to postpone indefinitely was lost, yeas 11, nays 32, and the resolution then passed by the same vote reversed. During the debate, Mr. Jones referred to the founder of Harrisburg, old John Harris, as a Welshman. He is an old Indian trader whom the Indians liked to have around, and would have burned alive but for the interposition of a friendly force. Senator Mackey, whom Mr. Jones mentioned as a direct descendant of Penn, made a humorous speech, expressed his regret that the Indians had not made away with the old fellow while they were at it.

During the consideration of Senate bill No. 4, for the formation of wharf companies, Mr. Rutan offered an amendment simply extending to wharf companies the provisions of the corporation law of 1874 so far as the same applies to corporations of the class mention. Mr. Strang expressed the opinion that the Constitution prohibited the passing of laws providing for the right of way by simply referring to their title. The provisions of law proposed to be extended must be set forth at length, and re-enacted. On this ground the bill was, yesterday, recommitted to the Committee on Judiciary, in order to settle the practice that is to be pursued under this provision of the Constitution. If a law proposed to be amended cannot be amended without re-enacting it at length, legislation will become exceedingly cumbersome, and fill the statute books with laws which are but a mere repetition of each other.

The second section of the act of 1874 relative to the formation of corporations, divides them into two classes, and proceeds to enumerate the various corporations that may be formed under it, in each class. The subsequent sections provide for the formation, government, management and powers of corporations of each class. It is now proposed as a way out of the difficulty of re-enacting the whole law as to corporations not enumerated in section 2, to amend that section by adding to it wharf companies and any other companies not provided for in it, that it may be desired to include, and re-enact the section in full, as so amended. It is held that this would be a strict compliance with the constitutional provision referred to, and that all the other sections of the act of 1874 would then apply to the companies added to the list in the amended second section.

This, if held to be constitutional, would save a great deal of repetition, and render the statute book unencumbered, and I am inclined to think that the legal gentlemen of the Senate will hold it to be right and permissible. The restrictive provision of the new Constitution is a hobgoblin now, but it certainly never was intended to require an endless repetition of identical enactments. Its purpose was simply to break up the vicious practice of passing laws by reference to their titles only; but a particular section of any law may certainly be amended, the same being set forth at length, without having to repeat and re-enact the entire law; and the law, so amended, would have the same force and effect as if it had been amended in the same way at the time of its original passage.

The Senate has now seventeen bills upon its calendar, of which three will be ready to pass finally on Monday night, four will be ready for second reading, and six for first reading. That body, therefore, is well up with its work, while the House has wasted two weeks in getting ready for work, and is not yet ready. The session is junior will it be until the lapse of a third week.

In the meantime, the Democratic leaders in the House propose to appoint committees of investigation, to inquire into the outrageous frauds of Sixth ward, Pittsburgh, and Deyarman, of Fayette, were absent attending a funeral. Had they been here, as they will be next week, the total still only comes up to 125.

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Revenue from all

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, January 19, 1875.

THE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS.

At the Republican caucus in the morning the first ballot resulted as follows:

Scott	29	Collis	5
Allison	27	Strang	11
Brewster	20	Coleman	3
Dimmick	2	Kelley	2
Pollock	5	Total	116
Dickey	6		

Necessary to a choice 59.

The second ballot resulted as follows:

Allison	66	Strang	10
Scott	27	Dimmick	6
Brewster	7		

Mr. Allison's nomination was made unanimous, amid applause.

SENATE.

The following bills were presented in place:

By Mr. Rutan—Regulating the rights of property of married persons.

Mr. Ermentrout—Amending the libel law.

Mr. Jones—For the removal of the contents of old jury wheels to new.

Mr. Winslow—Repealing the act allowing certain parties to be witnesses.

On the second reading the bill to permit defendants to testify in criminal cases, was lost by a vote of 20 to 25.

The bill authorizing married women to transfer securities, was postponed indefinitely, after the second and third sections had been struck out.

The bill supplementary to the partnership act, and the act relating to the return of writs in courts abolished or changed, was passed after its reading.

The following bills received their first reading: A bill repealing the act of April 9, 1872, regulating the election of school directors of Pittsburgh, and a bill authorizing the trustees of Erie academy to sell a piece of ground to the Young Men's Christian Association.

LATTA'S DEMAGOGISM.

Lieutenant-Governor Latta was sworn in by Judge Pearson. Mr. Latta made a speech denouncing the Government interference in Louisiana. This part was regarded by the Republican members as in very bad taste, and was freely denounced by them.

TIME FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR.

The Senate held an afternoon session to vote on United States Senator. Wallace received eighteen votes, and Allison twenty-nine. Mr. Rowland, Democrat, was absent, and Mr. Alexander paired with Mr. Wallace. The joint convention to be held on Wednesday will be a mere matter of form. Wallace will have 125 votes and Allison 118. Buckalew's bolt has proved a complete fizzle.

HOUSE.

Mr. Wendt, in place, presented a bill to punish persons buying scrap iron and brass from minors or irresponsible parties. Also, protecting labor and the commercial interests of the State.

Mr. Fischer—Relieving pensioners from paying a tax on their pensions.

Mr. Gunster—Relative to limitations of action for injures causing death.

The bill relative to the removal of the Philadelphia police magistrates was referred to a committee of Philadelphia members.

Mr. Graham's bill extending the terms of municipal officers was reported from the special committee favorably.

The vote on Senator was as follows: Wallace 107; Allison 88.

SENATE.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., January 20, 1875.

Mr. Strang offered a resolution to adjourn finally on March 25. Referred.

Mr. Yeakle reported a bill to amend the game laws.

The vote rejecting the bill to permit defendants to testify in criminal cases was reconsidered, and the bill was postponed.

The following bills were presented in place:

By Mr. Jones—To repeal the law allowing a bill of exceptions in criminal cases.

Mr. Payne—To punish the unlawful taking of personal property where the same does not amount to larceny.

Mr. Newmyer—Regulating the taking of bail in criminal cases by magistrates.

Mr. Wood—Fixing the first Monday of March as the beginning of the terms of municipal officers.

Mr. Rutan—To extend the time for the completion of railroads.

Mr. Payne—To secure to children the benefits of elementary education.

On the third reading, the bill relating to the Supplementary Partnership Associations act, and the bill relating to the return of writs in courts abolished or changed, was passed after its reading.

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Fourth ward Hospital, for the year ending December 14, 1874:

Balance of State Appropria tion by section 6 of act ap proved April 9th, 1870	$ 3,500 00
One year's interest on mort gage by Hebbard on the 14	7,000 00
One year's interest on note of Furnace Company	3,310 79
One year's interest on $37,000 bonds of City of Pittsburgh	2,220 00
Water Loan	3,000 00
One year's interest on $2,500 bonds of the Allegheny Val ley Railroad Company	150 00
	$11,180 79
Proceeds of note, $1,000, dis counted by the bank of Pitts burgh	3,953 00
Individual contributions, re ceived from estate of Chas. Brown, deceased	1,000 00
Earnings of the Hospital	3,741 31
Balance due the Treasurer on account of money over drafts by the Ex ecutive Committee	500 37
	$35,124 58

CR.

Balance due Treasurer per settlement December 18, 1873	$ 1,887 17
Warrants drawn by Executive Committee and during the year by the Treas urer (including warrant for the pay ment of note, $3,000, discounted by the Bank of Pittsburgh)	31,257 41
	$33,124 58

Mr. George A. Berry read the report of the Finance Committee, who state that they find the accounts of the Treasurer correct.

The same gentlemen also presented the following.

The Auditing Committee of the City General Hospital beg leave to report that they have carefully examined the accounts and vouchers of the Treasurer, Mr. John A. Harper, and find the same correct and satisfactory. They find that there is a balance due to him, by over-draft of the committee of that Hospital, of five hundred and seven dollars and twenty-seven cents.

They have examined and counted the securities belonging to the department, and find the same to be correct, to-wit:

Mortgage Mercantile Library Hall	$100,000 00
Note of Isabella Furnace Company, an investment made by the Board of Managers	41,383 71
Registered bond of the city of Pitts burgh	57,000 00
Two bonds of the Allegheny Valley Railroad	2,000 00
	$200,383 71

Mr. Berry also presented the following statement of the Trust funds.

BREWER FUEL FUND.

City of Pittsburgh 5 per cent. Compro mise bonds	$17,000 00
Note of Isabella Furnace Company	10,958 95
City of Pittsburgh Water Extension loan	10,000 00
Bond of Paul H. Hacke, secured by mortgage	20,000 00
	$54,358 95

CRAWFORD FUEL FUND.

City of Pittsburgh Water Extension loan	$12,000 00
Total amount of Trust Funds	$89,358 95

There have been of the Crawford Fund, 4,200 bushels of coal distributed in the lower part of Pittsburgh; and of the Brewer Fund, 6,989 bushels in Pittsburgh, and 5,245 bushels in Allegheny City; making a total of 16,425 bushels distributed during the year. The largest portion of which has been done through the Ladies' Relief Societies of the two cities.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The following is an abstract of the report of the above committee, which was read by Mr. R. Miller, Jr.: The duties of the committee are varied and numerous, and include a general supervision of all accounts for general maintenance, salaries and wages of employees, insurance of buildings and furniture, amusement fund, grading and excavation, and all improvements on the grounds. They devote one day of each week to these duties, and examine monthly all bills for supplies purchased, or for repairs and improvements on the grounds, and draw warrants on the Treasurer for the amount of these claims in favor of the several parties entitled to them; these warrants are all signed by three members of the committee. Thanks are given to Dr. John Reed, and to Doctors Gaddis and Hengst, and pride in the condition of the Hospital buildings expressed. During the year, the land slides in the rear of the building continued to give trouble and be a source of expense.

The total amount of expenditures for the year has been $126,247 37, as follows:

Salaries and wages	$ 27,682 73
Expenses of general maintenance	84,539 27
Insurances on buildings, &c	3,037 95
Amusements	80 00
Grading, excavating and improve ments on grounds	10,907 45
	$126,247 37

The following gentlemen comprise the above committee: R. Miller, Jr., Isaac Jones, John Hamilton, R. C. Loomis, Jno. Moorhead, P. H. Miller.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

Dr. Reed, the Superintendent of the Dixmont Hospital, presented his report, of which the following is a synopsis:

After recounting various matters, which are announced in the other reports, the Superintendent refers to the fact that a large number of incurable cases have accumulated in the wards of the Hospital, and says that the policy had been maintained of receiving only such cases as were of recent origin, and were free from such complications as necessarily involved incurability, and perhaps death, or if the Hospital had not only rejected all such, but had discharged all those whose insanity failed to yield to treatment in a reasonable time, the present array of incurable cases would not be presented to you. I am not prepared to advise as to the humanity of such a policy, but I am pleased to say that your Board has never declined to remand to the jails and poor-houses any patient on account of incurability, unless you were convinced that the care which we needed could be extended to them in those institutions. Even now, you are fully aware that one hundred and twelve patients occupy the wards who, in justice to the remaining four hundred, should be elsewhere. But you hesitate to direct the closing of our doors, or the removal of this excess, lest in doing so the Institution might come short, in any degree, of the high and holy purpose for which it was established."

The "hospital enters on a new year crowded to excess. Five hundred and twelve patients crowded into apartments intended for four hundred, compels the association of two, and sometimes four in a room intended for one, and places in wards intended for eighteen patients, from thirty to forty persons. It is useless to attempt to connect the fact that great evils are involved in the present over-crowded condition of the hospital. Conflicts will and do take place, and no amount of watchfulness can at all times prevent it. Every precaution is taken to associate those most likely to harmonize, and to restrain those who would endanger others by violent attacks, and I am glad to report that the year has passed without any serious accident from this source. How long we shall enjoy an exemption from those painful scenes lately witnessed in another overcrowded hospital is impossible to say, and whether we shall continue to admit patients without regard to the number now under our care, or shall discharge the incurables to make room for recent cases, is a question I leave with you to determine."

The Superintendent closes his report with acknowledgments of many acts of kindness on the part of friends of the institution.

A resolution changing the time of commencement of the fiscal year to October 1st, was adopted.

ELECTIONS.

Messrs Jas. I. Bennett, Robert Beer, Richard E. Breed, Jos. M. Knap, O. Metcalf, James Park, Jr., and H. W. Williams were reelected managers for three years.

The Board of Managers then held a meeting and re-elected John Harper President. The other officers were also re-elected.

The visitors were conducted through the various rooms of the Hospital by the courteous Superintendent, his estimable wife, and at four o'clock the party boarded a train for the city.

CHURCH SCANDAL.

A Glendale Minister Charged with an Unnatural Crime.

Quite a commotion has been caused in a church congregation in the neighboring village of Glendale, by the bringing to light of certain misdeeds on the part of the pastor. We have the following information concerning the scandal: The pastor, who is a young married man, and quite popular with the members of his congregation, has recently been conducting a series of revival meetings, which were apparently productive of good results, large numbers of sinners becoming converts and members of the church. The minister has labored unceasingly during the several weeks of the revival, and on Monday he gave from the pulpit a glowing and enthusiastic account or summing up of the results of the meetings. He was warmly congratulated by the members of the flock, and all concurred in the belief that he was a thoroughly good man. What, then, must have been their astonishment yesterday upon receiving the intelligence that an information had been made before a Justice of the Peace—Squire Robinson—charging their pastor with the commission of an unnatural crime. A warrant was issued and duly executed, and the latest advices from Glendale state that the accused would probably be committed to jail in default of bail. So general was the indignation against him, that of all the friends of that once popular minister, not one had been found who was willing to go on his bail-bond to save him from going to prison. It was thought, however, that in order to avoid the scandal which must necessarily grow out of a trial of the case, the charge would be withdrawn and the sinning pastor allowed to depart for another field.

Our Iron Product.

The product of the blast furnaces of Allegheny county, for the past three years, was as follows—in tons of 2,000 pounds:

	1872.	1873.	1874.
Clinton	11,200	13,105¼	12,412
Superior No. 1	21,900	20,506	5,422
Superior No. 2			5,254
Eliza No. 1	23,698¼	20,417¼	20,337½
Eliza No. 2			12,240½
Shoenberger No. 1	28,852	15,959½	17,319¼
Shoenberger No. 2			
Lucy	13,751½	13,846¼	27,860
Isabella No. 1	17,125	18,394	27,495
Isabella No. 2			19,231¼
Soho	1,400	21,257¼	15,662½
Total	117,929	153,859½	151,238

THE PUDDLERS.

The Mill Owners Not Willing to Pay More than $4 50.

A day or two ago we stated that the puddlers, in all probability, would agree to resume work at the figure offered by the mill owners, at the time of the late lock-out, namely, $5 00 per ton. The puddlers, under the scale, had been receiving $6 00 per ton, and on a compromise—to take $5 50, if the card rate was correspondingly reduced. The manufacturers were unwilling to give more than $5 00, and so the lock-out has continued. Yesterday there was no official announcement of the determination of the puddlers to resume at $5 00 per ton, but it was generally accepted as a fact that many of them would go to work on that basis. Some of them, at least, assert that they came to no such conclusion, and intend to hold out. In conversation with leading puddlers yesterday, we learned that they are unwilling to start their furnaces now at $5 00 per ton, knowing that they could not run even at that figure. The business will not justify, at present, a higher figure than $4 50, and they prefer to remain idle, or get along as best they can, until a change for the better takes place.

Death of Henry Sproull.

Henry Sproull, Esq., for many years a prominent citizen of Pittsburgh, died at his residence in Williamsport, on Saturday last, aged eighty-two years. Mr. Sproull was appointed clerk of the United States Circuit Court for this district in 1846, by his honor, Judge Grier, his brother-in-law, and held the office for upward of thirty years. He was widely known in the community, and was highly esteemed. After leaving this office, he engaged in the banking business in Williamsport, which he pursued until failing health necessitated his retirement. He was the father of Isaac and R. C. G. Sproull, Esqs., of this city.

A REMINISCENCE OF LINCOLN.

As a Marksman—How He Tried a Spencer Rifle—And How the Target Appeared After He Got Through—A Hitherto Unpublished Anecdote.

(From the Indianapolis Sentinel.)

A gentleman of this city has in his possession a curious relic of the late President Lincoln. In August, 1863, Mr. S. was a clerk in the Navy Department at Washington. The accumulation of business at that time frequently compelled him to work after office hours, about six o'clock on the evening of the 31st, the clerks having all left the Department, and the watchman not yet on duty, Mr. S. sat at his desk, alone, as he thought, in the building. Suddenly he heard one man walking up and down the hall with long strides, muttering to himself.

"I do wonder if they have gone off and left the building all alone," he heard the voice say as he came to the door. Looking down the hall he saw President Lincoln, who presently turned and seeing Mr. S. approached with a "Good evening, sir." "Good evening, Mr. President," said Mr. S. "Is there anything I can do for your"

"I was just looking for that man that goes shooting with me sometimes," said Mr. Lincoln. Mr. S. happened to know that President Lincoln was very fond of fire-arms, and was then engaged in testing every new gun invented, which at that time was a pretty frequent occurrence. The messenger of the Ordnance Bureau generally went with Mr. Lincoln to his house, so Mr. S. told him he would see if the man was still in the building. Finding he was not, Mr. S. offered his services. "All right," said Mr. Lincoln, "get your coat on and come on." He followed Mr. S. into the room and stood at his desk drumming on it with his fingers, and keeping up a running fire of talk about the amount of work he had to do, how hot the weather was, etc.

Mr. S. being ready, they started. "But hold on," said Mr. Lincoln, "we must have something to shoot at." So Mr. S. went back to his desk and got half a sheet of congress letter paper; this he folded twice, making the target four thicknesses of paper, four inches square.

At the door of the Navy Department they met a man from the White House with a box of ammunition and a Spencer carbine, which gun had been recently invented, and the qualities of which Mr. Lincoln was going to test. Mr. S. took the gun and Mr. Lincoln the cartridge-box, and then the two made their way across the lot south of the White House. Arriving at a safe distance Mr. S. placed the target against a spy post standing in the ground, and the President, having loaded the carbine, paced off the distance, about eighty or a hundred feet, raised the rifle to a level, took a quick aim and fired the round of seven shots (the Spencer carbine is a repeating rifle or revolver) in quick succession, the bullets chipping all round the target and one striking near the center.

"I believe I can make this gun shoot better," said Mr. Lincoln, after they had looked at the result of the first fire. With this he took from his vest pocket a small telescope sight which he had whittled from a pine stick, and adjusted it over the sight of the carbine. He then shot two rounds, and of the fourteen bullets nearly a dozen hit the paper. Mr. Lincoln then wanted Mr. S. to shoot, but as that gentleman wasn't proud of his marksmanship, he declined, and the two walked across the lot to the White House. Mr. Lincoln with the cartridge-box and carbine on his shoulder, chatting like a boy home from hunting, and Mr. S. with the target in his pocket, getting in a word edgewise when he could. At the White House door they parted, with a cheery "good night" from Mr. Lincoln, and the whirligig of time yesterday brought the target before the eyes of the *Sentinel* reporter. It is now a faded piece of paper about four inches square. Near the center is a blackened hole through which Mr. S. said the President having got the range sent five or six bullets in succession. A little to the right is another spot pierced by two bullets, and just before a third perforation. These within a radius of about two inches. At the left lower corner a piece of paper is chipped out, and another at the right center, while the post all around the paper, Mr. S. said, looked as if it had had the small-pox.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, January 20, 1875.

A rather curious case, and one of some interest, was recently decided in the Circuit Court of the United States for the District of Massachusetts. It seems that the Massachusetts National bank loaned to James A. Coe $22,000 on call, taking as security a certificate of 220 shares of a railroad company, which afterward proved to have been raised by Coe from two shares. The certificate had been taken by the bank in good faith, and on their calling the loan it was duly paid by Coe. On the back of the certificate was the usual printed form of transfer, which, on being returned to Coe, was duly signed, as is customary, by the cashier of the Massachusetts National bank. Subsequently the plaintiff in this case, one Nathan Matthews, loaned Coe $25,000 on call, and took as collateral the certificate, bearing the indorsement of the cashier of the bank, supposing the instrument to be genuine. Coe failed, and Matthews becoming aware of the fraudulent character of the certificate, notified the bank, the defendants in this case, that he would hold it responsible for any loss incurred by him, and brought suit to recover the damages so sustained.

The question involved was whether the bank, by signing the blank transfer, so far warranted the genuineness of the certificate that it was estopped from setting up the forgery as a defense to this action.

The defendants denied that the cashier had the authority to so bind the bank. The learned judge held that as bank cashiers are held out to the public as having authority to act according to general usage, their acts, within the scope of such usage, will bind the bank. That the signing of transfers is an act within the scope of general usage. This being decided, the question returns, to what extent the signing the transfer by the bank was a warranty of the genuineness of the certificate, and whether the bank is estopped from setting up the forgery as a defense. The Court stated that in the case of forged negotiable instruments it was well settled that the indorser warrants that the instrument itself, and the antecedent signatures thereon, are genuine, and that the same rule of law applies with equal force to the case of a transfer of a certificate of stock by indorsement in blank, and adds:

"The certificate in this case, as it came from the bank, contained on its face a piece of paper and on the back of the certificate, a blank assignment, which was all that was necessary to transfer the title of the stock as between the parties. The defendants must therefore be held to have intended and agreed that, whenever should present the certificate as issued from the bank, with the assignment executed in blank, should be entitled to final payment with his own name and to have a transfer of the stock made to himself on the books of the company. The certificate, accompanied with the transfer, executed in blank, was a species of negotiable paper, and by the usage of commerce, to make such certificates available in commercial transactions. The signature is given for the purpose of transferring the title, and whenever a blank is filled a contract of sale is established between the party who has signed the blank assignment and the person whose name is rightfully filled in as assignee."

Judge Shepley goes on to state that by delivering the forged certificate to Coe with the printed form of transfer signed in blank, the bank gave it a respectability which it otherwise would not have had, and put it in Coe's power to commit the fraud on Matthews; and, as the negligence was on the part of the bank, it must, according to numerous former decisions in similar cases, be held responsible. That the bank cannot set up the fact of the forgery of the instrument, because it would be a wrong on its own part and an injury to others whose conduct has been influenced by its acts and omissions. Judgment was accordingly rendered for the plaintiff.

—Mr. Osterberg, editor of the *German-American Economist*, has recently addressed a letter to General Spinner on the subject of our national finances, which is worthy of attention. He deprecates the idea that Congress should fix a day for the resumption of specie payments, asking what guarantee there can be that the Treasury will be in a condition to carry out the law at the specified time. "If Congress," he says, "passes a law that specie payment shall be resumed, say July, 1876, it merely puts the whole question off for that length of time. It gives the gold speculators the certainty that nothing will be done before July, 1876, to disturb their gambling." In conclusion, he says:

"Why cannot we resume specie payments in three months, just as well as in one, two or three years? Do we require years to prepare for it? Austria has prepared for it in several days, but never accomplished it, and always lost more than she gained. We do not intend by most to fall into the same mistakes. To resume specie payments we must have specie. We must have more specie than we now have, and more than we will ever be able to retain from that flowing by our country's natural trade, if it remains merchandise here, and paper legal tender. The only way to get specie when ever we want to resume payment is by importing it from any country where we can find it. Is not France solving for us the problem? We can get specie by taking a foreign loan. If we negotiate to-day a loan of $30,000,000 interest and capital payable in London, there is not the least doubt but that the same can be placed at par. If Congress, then, merely authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to resume specie payment as soon as he holds 25 per cent. gold to the amount of greenbacks and fractional currency in circulation, he will be able to resume in less than three months."

—Below we give an abstract of the reports of the national banks of this city for the 31st day of December, 1874, as shown by their statements in an answer to the call of the Controller.

There are now eighteen national banks in Pittsburgh, the First National of Birmingham having been added by the consolidation of the South Side with the city and the City National by a change in its organization from a banking association to a national bank.

—The following directions are given for detecting counterfeit fifty cent notes now in circulation: On the counterfeit the lock of hair in the corner of Dexter's forehead touches the hair at each end, while in the genuine it is a "C" shaped lock, and touches only at the lower end.

—On the 11th, in the case of Clark vs. Iowa City, appeal from the United States District Court for the District of Iowa, Judge Field delivered an opinion in the United States Supreme Court, holding that in an action on coupons for interest, detached from the bonds to which they belonged, the statute of limitations which applies to the coupons is that which would apply to the bond if suit was brought, and that the statute begins to run from the time the coupon was due and payable. Affirmed.

—There are now fifty-eight savings banks and three banks of discount in Maine. The charters of the latter expire in October, but renewals will be asked of the Legislature, as they are doing a good business. The deposits and profits of the savings banks, November 2, were $31,051,983, against $29,345,523 in 1873, the increase in deposits being $1,486,459.

—The following table shows the prices of gold, Government securities, railway stocks, etc., at the various points of the New York Stock Exchange during the day. Furnished by the St. Clair Company, No. 16 Sixth street:

January 20, 1875.	10:30 A. M.	12:30 M.	2:30 P. M.	3:00 P. M.
Gold	112¾	112¾	112⅝	112⅝
U. S. 6's, 1881, coup	118⅝	118⅝		118⅝
U. S. 5's, 1881	114¾			114¾
U. S. 5-20's, 1862	113⅛			113⅛
U. S. 5-20's, 1864	113⅛			113⅛
U. S. 5-20's, 1865, new	113⅛			113⅛
U. S. 5-20's, 1867	113⅛			113⅛
U. S. 5-20's, 1868	113⅛			113⅛
Registered, 1907	113⅛			113⅛
U. S. 10-40's, 1904	111⅛			111⅛
10-40's, coupons	111⅛			111⅛
6's of '81, coupons	118⅝			118⅝
Pacific Mail	25¾	25¾	25¾	25¾
New York Central	99½	99½	99½	99½
Erie	20¾	20¾	20¾	20¾
Erie preferred	40¾	40¾	40¾	40¾
Michigan Central	79			80
Michigan Southern	79			79
Illinois Central	97¾			97¾
Cleveland & Pittsb'h	90¾			90¾
Chicago & North-W.	41¾	41¾	41¾	41¾
Do. preferred	68¾			68¾
Rock Island	97½			97½
St. Paul, common	37	37¼	37¼	37¼
St. Paul, preferred				75
Fort Wayne	125½	125½	125½	125½
Ohio & Mississippi	30¾	30¾	30¾	30¾
Union Pacific	36¾	36¾	36¾	36¾
Harlem	127½			127½
Hartford & S. Jos	15			15
C., C. & I. C.	25			25
Cleveland, old	72			72
Do new				
Pan Handles, April	72			72
Do July	71½			71½
Missouri 6's	80½			80½

—The following is a report of the prices of leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board, as received by wire at noon to-day:

	Bid.	Asked.
Pennsylvania Central, sales	50¼	
Pennsylvania Central scrip	102¾	
Reading	30½	
Reading Companies of N. Jersey	130½	
Oil Creek	14¾	
Lehigh Valley	61¾	
Allegheny Valley	60	
Central Transportation, sales	43¾	
C., I. & S.t. Louis mortgage bds, sales	80¾	

GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, WEDNESDAY, January 20, 1875.

The general aspect of trade on our streets remains unchanged, although in some respects the demand seems to be improving, and the aggregate volume of business has increased somewhat during the past week. Still business is light, and merchants generally report a dull trade, which they hope will improve with the advance of the season. At present, however, the purchases made are only for immediate wants, and these, owing to the stringent state of the money market generally, consumers, are confined within the smallest limits.

In the movements of prices there is not much news to note, as generally values do not show much fluctuation. The breadstuffs market, for the present, is the stagnation of the past two or three weeks, gaining a little strength, and corn and oats are showing a fraction higher prices. The visible supply of flour, comprising the stocks at the undermentioned places December 31, compared with previous years, is reported by the *Produce Exchange Weekly* as follows:

	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.
At	Bbls.	Bbls.	Bbls.	Bbls.
New York	428,334	342,817	278,034	249,416
Buffalo	32,900	10,000	18,000	13,800
Boston	200,000	225,000	330,000	350,000
Philadelphia	30,954	94,708	98,724	95,000
Baltimore	98,500	70,000	62,000	62,000
Chicago	72,700	25,500	700	38,500
Cincinnati	30,000	30,500	22,500	21,800
St. Louis	153,434	94,934	94,848	132,392
Milwaukee	34,575	28,095	25,000	15,000
Montreal	76,995	38,153	30,350	60,129
Portland	5,314	10,370	9,920	11,000
Oswego	36,500	20,800	15,800	20,000
Detroit	24,515	18,500	19,000	18,000
Toledo	6,250	4,500	6,500	10,000
Duluth		1,500	2,000	1,800
Total	1,392,810	1,035,870	1,045,275	1,105,574

The country produce trade is quiet and rather stagnant. Potatoes are moderately active, and offers are very dull. Provisions show a fair degree of activity, but there is no material change in figures. The state of affairs at the supply markets is somewhat enigmatical, as we learn from the Chicago *Tribune*, which says that prices are very high, as compared with the corresponding period of last year, yet the packers say that they cannot manufacture at present prices without a reduction in the cost of hogs. But, when they hold out and forces a slight decline, the market for provisions generally is turned round to about the same extent, and the situation remains as before. It is remarkable, too, that though prices are so high that European buyers say they cannot afford to take hold, yet the shipments of provisions from the seaboard ports during last week show that the stuff is going forward in considerable volume. At present the packers and hog owners are in battle array, and the struggle may be a hard one before either side gives in.

The grocery trade is dull, and prices are unchanged. During the past week sugars have gained a little strength, while green coffees at the Eastern markets have weakened a little. Teas continue firm and unchanged. Refining are the wholesale prices of the local refiners: No. 1 whitewheat flour $7 20 ₱ bbl; No. 2 amber wheat do $7 50; red wheat flour $6 10; in sacks 50c off ₱ bbl. The jobbing prices of leading dealers are as follows: Choice brands of white winter wheat flour $6 00@6 25; Wisconsin $5 75; Minnesota $5 75@6 00; red winter wheat flour $5 75@6 25; Ohio, Indiana and Illinois do $5 50; self-raising flour in 6 ₱ packages, $6 25 ₱ dozen packages; corn meal, old do $3 75; new $3 00@3 50; oatmeal $7 50@8 00.

HAY—The receipts are much fallen off, being 125 tons the past week, against 1,035 tons of preceding week. This gives the market some additional strength, and prices while not quotably changed, are firmer. We quote prime timothy, on track, at $22 00@23 00 ₱ ton; No. 2 do $18 00@20 00; choice prairie $15 00@16 00; baled hay from store is quoted at $24 00@25 00. Loose hay is selling at $20 00@20 00 for No. 1; $25 00@27 00 for No. 2. Straw is quoted at $15 00@16 00 ₱ ton.

MILL FEED—Bran is in mir demand at $1 10@1 15 ₱ cwt; shorts $1 20@1 25; mixed feed $1 45@1 55 ₱ cwt; chopped feed $1 50@1 65 ₱ cwt; oilmeal $1 90@2 00 ₱ cwt.

GROCERIES.

In the grocery trade here, there is not much to note, and the quiet condition of affairs amounts almost to stagnation. From Boston firm, especially the roasted article, are jobbers have strong views. Sugars show a reduction in stock with a firm tendency reported, as well as in molasses and syrups, while teas, rice, spices, &c., are not materially altered. Prices current of standard groceries are as follows:

Green Coffees.	₱ lb
Fancy	24c
Choice	23½c
Prime	22c
Good	20
Java	33
Roasted Coffees.	
Rio, in papers	28 c
Rio, in bulk	27½c
Java	40 c
Sugars.	
Standard A	10¼c
Standard B	10c
Standard extra C	10c
Standard brands	9¾c
Franklin extra C	9¼c
American extra C	9¼c
New Orleans	8½@9½c
Teas.	
Young Hyson	50@$1 00
Gunpowder	50@$1 25
Imperial	50@$1 00
Japan	50@$1 00
Oolong	25@$1
Fancy	1 00
Souchong	25@$1

Spices.	
Cloves, ₱ lb	55 c
Allspice, ₱ lb	17½@18½c
Cassia, ₱ lb	45c
Nutmegs, ₱ lb	125@140
Pepper, ₱ lb	26@27 c
Molasses, ₱ gal.	
Strictly ch'e N O	75c
Prime	70c
Choice	68c
Syrups.	
Ex. white drips	65c
Sugar drips	55c
Lower grades	45@50c
Rosins.	
Layers, ₱ bx	$3 40
Valentine, ₱ lb	12c
Currants	7½c
Prunes	12½@15 c
Starch.	
Common	5 c
Silver gloss	10c
Corn	10½c
Soda.	
Bi-carb, ₱ lb	5c
Bi-carb, ₱ lb papers	9c
Sal-soda	2½c
Caustic	4c
Candles.	
Star, full weight	18c
Stearine	18@20c

Rice:

Choice Carolina	8½c
Patna	7½@8 c
Rangoon	7½c

Of the New York markets the *Bulletin* says: Refined sugar has been firmly held at higher prices, and a fair demand has prevailed with, in the last few days, sales at 10¾@10¾c for hard grades, and 10c for standard "A." Quite a number of prominent refiners have ceased producing for the present, and those who have not done this have limited their production to a moderate quantity, and in some instances no production is offered. This course of the refining interest has grown out of the old trouble in regard to prices, which is claimed to be unremunerative, and from the unanimity with which measures for protection in this respect are adopted by the trade, it certainly seems as though there were ample grounds for the complaint.

Teas has continued very firm in price, owing to the probability of the duty being restored, and also due to the briskness of the demand. Considerable Oolong has been taken—fully 15,000 half chests within a week—owing to the relative cheapness of that description of green and Japan there have also been very fair sales at firm prices. It is however, none the less true that considerably larger sales could have been effected, had it not been for the views of buyers who, in some instances, were far above buyers' ideas. The fine trade has been brisk, and prices have ruled quite firm.

Foreign Fruits—The demand is being generally unchanged. We quote as follows:

No. 1 extra mess	Large do, ₱ 100
mackerel ₱ bbl. $25 00	Mess codfish
No. 1 mess	₱ lb
Extra No. 1 shore	White fish, ₱ half
Extra No. 1 bay	bbl
No. 1 bay	Lake herring, ₱
Extra No. 2	half bbl
No. 2 bay	Labrador herring,
New No. 3	₱ bbl
George's codfish	Round do
₱ 100	

TOBACCO—The market is quiet and unchanged. Quotations are as follows:

Spun roll	57@60c
Black Twists	54@57c
Black Cuts	54@57c
Navy plug	54@57c
Solid twist	54@57c
Fine Cut	57@60c
Cut and dry	57@60c
Scotch Fine Cut	57@60c
Scotch Snuff	45@75c
Black Snuff	60@65c
Dry Sir Twist	60@65c

Cigars—

Penn's Seed	$15@20
Connecticut Seed	15@20
Seed & Havana	30@35
Havana	50@150

The market is steady. We quote 7½@8½c from store; sales of round lots are made at a reduction from figures.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

A—The market continues dull. Receipts light and in a jobbing way. Extra choice apples are noted at $2 25 ₱ bbl; $1 75@2 00 for choice; $1 50@1 70 for common. On large lots these prices would be shaded.

BUTTER—Is in fair supply and prices are easy for prime to common.

BEANS—The demand is light and supply liberal. We quote: Navy at $2 00@2 10 ₱ bush; $1 70@1 90; fair to good $1 50@1 70.

BUTTER—There seems to be no improvement in the demand, which is cut down more by the circumstan which is cut down more by other causes. Rolls are not in remarkable volume, but are more than this market requires. Prices are easy. We quote 28@29c for choice; 26@28c for medium; 22@25c for common.

BROOMS—Are yellow beswax is quoted at $1 85@2 ₱ bush. Sound lotssales in a jobbing way are made at $2 00@2 25.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—Buckwheat flour is rather easy, and large supply at $6 50@6 75 ₱ cwt; $7 00 ₱ bbl. Retailing buckwheat flour is quoted, in 5 ₱ bags, at $1 20 ₱ doz packages.

CHEESE—The market continues quiet here, but generally unchanged. Demand light as to make trading dull. Somewhat better feeling is noted in the Eastern markets. We quote: Ohio factory, New York factory and Western Reserve 17½@18c; Switzer 18@19c ₱ lb. Receipts, 7 boxes or the past two weeks.

EGGS—The market is comparatively steady. We quote 25@26c ₱ dozen for strictly fresh in barrels; 26@27c for selected packages.

CRANBERRIES—We quote, at $5 00@6 00 for Western; $4 50@5 00 for eastern; $14 00 ₱ barrel for Sackett's.

GAME—We quote as follows: Venison—saddles 16@17c ₱ lb; whole 12@13c; prairie chickens $3 50@3 75 ₱ doz; pheasants $3 50@4 00; quail $1 25@1 50 ₱ doz; wild duck $3 50@4 00; rabbits 25@30c ₱ pair; squirrels 20@25c ₱ pair; wild turkeys @ 20 each.

HONEY—The market has a jobbing way. We quote 30@35c ₱ box.

FEATHERS—Are quoted as follows: No. 1, 70 ₱ lb, 65@70c for round lots; 75@75c in jobbing way.

SPICE MEAL—Is quoted at 10c ₱ lb in a jobbing way.

POTATOES—Receipts have fair off during the past week, being only 1,200 bushels the preceding week. Trade is rather ill, and is almost entirely confined to a jobbing store. We quote at 80@85c ₱ bushel for fine peachblows from store; medium qts 70@75c ₱ bushel.

POULTRY—Supply fair and market firm. Quotations at 13@14c for chicks; 14@15c for turkeys.

PEPPERS AND DRIED FRUIT—Quote dried apples at 5@5½c; sliced do 5½@6c; peaches 10c ₱ lb; dried peaches are quoted at 6@8c ₱ lb for choice halves. Apple butter quoted at 50@55c ₱ gallon. Peppers is active at 40c for No. 1; 35c ₱ lb for clover; buckwheat bloom 25c ₱ lb. Medium pickles are quoted at $3 00 ₱ bbl; $5 00 ₱ half bbl. Onions, $3 00 ₱ bbl.

VINEGAR—The market is dull, id there are few sales. We quote: Common in a jobbing way at 15@18c ₱ gallon for prime; inferior 11@12c.

PROVISIONS.

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Strictly ch'e N O	75c
Prime	70c
Choice	68c
Syrups.	
Ex. white drips	65c
Sugar drips	55c
Lower grades	45@50c
Rosins.

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 1875.

THE White League sympathizers of the Northern States are still sounding their barbaric yawp over the roofs of the world."

IT SEEMS to be the general impression that the Eighth and Ninth Commandments of the Decalogue are wasted on SCHUMAKER.

IT IS foolish in the Democrats to try to abolish the office of Lieutenant General of the Army. JUBAL EARLY hopes some day to take General SHERIDAN'S place.

NEW ENGLAND papers note a marked improvement in business at the various manufactories in that section within the past few weeks, and state that a better spring trade than last year is generally anticipated.

EVERY man secretly admires moral courage, even though his own backbone be made of pulp. The New Orleans reactionists are now beginning to assume a very respectful and courteous tone toward General SHERIDAN.

THE report of Majors MERRILL and WEITZEL, with reference to the applicability of forming hydraulic gates in the improvement of the Ohio river, has been laid before Congress. The report is quite exhaustive and voluminous.

GENERAL LOGAN'S speech on the Louisiana question was the boldest and most masterly *expose* which has been made this session of the hypocrisy of the professions of the Bourbon Democracy and their allies of the New York press.

AN AMENDMENT will be offered to the Postal Appropriation bill, which comes up for consideration on Monday, to repeal the law providing for the payment of a subsidy to the Pacific Mail Company. It should pass without a moment's hesitation.

IT IS stated on good authority that the correspondents of all the New York papers in New Orleans are resident, and are either members of the White League or in sympathy with it. Certainly the character of their late correspondence would seem to go far to sustain the assertion.

HERE is the crystallization of the whole Louisiana matter. If the war of the nation against the secessionists in putting down the late rebellion and freeing the slave was right, then the Republican party is also right to-day in its attitudes and its intentions. If not, then not.

THE Chicago *Times*, Democratic, characterizes the proceedings of "the Bourbons in the Legislature of Pennsylvania" with reference to the Louisiana question, as "ill-timed and absurd." Doubtless the matter is hardly worth ridiculing, however. It was such a little squeak.

NOTWITHSTANDING the devastating grasshopper plague in Kansas, that energetic young State makes a gratifying exhibit of agricultural and mechanical progress. The increase in the cultivated acres of the State during the past year was 705,872 acres, or nearly twenty-one per cent., and the increase in manufactured products was fully twenty per cent.

ONE by one the vipers are creeping forth. The Shelbyville, Tenn., *Commercial* says:

A doubt due the country in the assassination of those men in authority who are usurping the rights of the people in the State of Louisiana — Grant and Phil. Sheridan—and every other menial under Grant who is ready and willing to do the work of usurpation at his bidding.

THE Philadelphians are, evidently, a reading and writing people. The number of letters and newspapers delivered in that city by postal carriers in 1874 was 35,985,514, an increase of nearly 5,000,000 over the previous year. The daily average of receipts from the sale of postage stamps was $2,916 01; the number of domestic money orders issued 38,333, for $761,079; and the number paid 172,555, calling for $2,259,379.

THIS assassination talk does not, certainly, originate with the Democrats.—*Courier-Journal.*

Doubtful. But the practice certainly does. Moreover, it is hardly more than a week ago since the *Courier-Journal* itself editorially said:

General Sheridan fears assassination—

If the assassination
Could trammel up the consequences, and catch
With his surcease success—

but there's De Trobriand and Merrill and all the small fry—too many to pick off in that way.

THE Democrats have never disputed the fact that there is a large Republican majority in Louisiana. The colored people constitute a large majority of the voters of that State, and there are besides a great many white Republicans. In such a case, slaveholding and rebel elements cannot bear the idea of submitting to Republican rule, and the rule of the majority—and this is the prime cause of all the White League plotting and murdering there. In a word, the minority are thoroughly bent on the abrogation of the rule of the majority, as the Constitution and laws require.

THE National Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers has inaugurated a reform whose beneficial effects may, it is to be hoped, presently be felt throughout the entire country. Engineers who are addicted to the use of intoxicating liquors when on duty are to be forthwith expelled from the society. The new movement on the part of the Brotherhood is a most commendable one, and will be appreciated not only by the railway companies, but by the traveling public. An association whose members have the lives of the public in their hands has certainly no use for bibulous and intemperate men.

WESTERN papers affirm that unless the Legislatures of those States speedily modify the laws for the regulation of railroads, passed during the last two years, there is a prospect that, in a short time, all the smaller local roads will be out of existence. It is charged that the laws, as enforced at present, are entirely impracticable, and that they affect the roads, especially the local ones, to such an extent as to drive them into bankruptcy at a fearfully rapid rate. Almost every road in Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota, it is claimed, is suffering from the enforcement of these laws.

THE annual statement of the commerce of Cleveland for 1874, as published in the *Herald* of that city, speaks well for its enterprise and rapidly developing progress. The total value of the commerce of the port, foreign and domestic, imports and exports, was $49,206,471. The total number of vessels entered and cleared during the year was 7,448, with a tonnage of 2,467,399 tons. Fifteen vessels were built within the same period, their aggregate tonnage amounting to 8,300 tons. This, on the whole, is an encouraging showing. We sincerely trust the progress of the present year may largely outstrip the last.

BOTH Houses of the Mississippi Legislature have adopted resolutions indorsing the action of President GRANT and General SHERIDAN in the Louisiana matter, and declaring that "we believe that if the policy enunciated by this leader be carried out, not only will murderers who have long escaped justice be punished for their crimes, but that peace and security for life will follow, and that all citizens will be enabled to peacefully enjoy the privileges guaranteed them by the Constitution of the United States, which, up to the present time, they have been unable to enjoy in large portions of the above-mentioned State."

A LARGE number of the principal manufacturing parties in the country met in Philadelphia on Wednesday, for the purpose of organizing a national association and taking such measures as would promote the recognition of this important branch of American industry. Resolutions were adopted in favor of procuring home designs for ware, instead of copying after foreign manufacturers, and the securing of space for the exhibition of specimens of our skill in pottery in the Centennial Exposition. The next meeting of the association will be held at the Monongahela House, in this city, on the evening of the second Wednesday in January, 1876.

THE eminently fair and truthful person who represents the Associated Press at New Orleans forgot to mention in his dispatches that a Republican mass meeting was held in that city on Monday night, at which resolutions were passed declaring that "this meeting is fully assured of the truthfulness and perfect reliability of the telegrams and statements made by General SHERIDAN; that this meeting most heartily indorses the same, and that the representations of General SHERIDAN to the Executive at Washington are only defective in that they do not express one-half the outrages to which Republicans have been subjected for several years past." The agent of the Associated Press at New Orleans should step down and out.

A BISHOP SPEAKS ABOUT PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

In Cleveland, on the 17th of December, the Right Reverend Dr. MCQUAID, Roman Catholic Bishop of Rochester, delivered a lecture on the subject of the American public school system. The lecture was an assault upon the system, of course, a movement in the warfare which the Roman Catholic Bishops are waging against the system which intelligent Americans in general regard as one chief bulwark of their republican institutions. The hostility of the Bishops to the schools is as natural, so manifest a dictate of the law of self preservation, that probably no well informed person, whether Protestant or Catholic, needs any elucidation of its orgin. Every one is familiar with the effect of education in developing self-respect, and in inspiring that intellectual independence which refuses either to believe without reason or to obey without conviction. Every one is also aware of the enormous powers with which Roman Catholic Bishops are invested. They are, in fact, the only absolute rulers with whom American citizens have directly to do. In a lecture, delivered in Philadelphia, a few days ago, the Rev. Father STACK, a Catholic clergyman, spoke of the government of the Bishops as arbitrary, as administered without regard to ecclesiastical or civil law. So transcendent is the power of the Bishops, said Father STACK, that there is no appeal from their fiats. Really each Bishop unites in his own person all the functions so carefully distinguished and distributed by English and American law, and is at once administrator, executive and judge. He is "judge, jury and hangman." In other words, every Catholic Bishop is an autocrat within the range of his jurisdiction, the representative of a system not only alien but directly antagonistic to the free institutions by which it is in this country surrounded, a system forming a despotism within the American republic. Inevitably the two governments must come into hostile collision and conflict, unless the common subjects of both can be kept ignorant of the privileges guarantied by one of them and unconscious of the conditions involved in the other. Placed in a political position so strange, at once citizens of the freest republic on earth and amenable to the most relentless despotism, they must be trained from infancy to submission, their minds when most pliable must be moulded to their anomalous circumstances, or discontent and revolt will necessarily follow the unfolding of their rational powers. Hence the hostility of the Bishops to the public schools; hence their zeal in the maintenance of separate schools for the children of the Catholic church. It is sound Catholic doctrine, it is not the ancient religious system defended by BOSSUET and illustrated by PASCAL which is endangered by the public schools. No, not so; the thing endangered is that mediæval religio-political system which has been lately revived with all its despotic pretensions, and against which even educated Catholics in Europe are protesting. Ultramontanism, quietly accepted in this country because not understood, cannot be upheld or propagated among graduates of well taught common schools.

Some readers will be surprised to learn from Bishop MCQUAID how successful the hierarchy have been in some places in their competition with the public schools. Thus, the Bishop states, that while the public schools of Rochester have only a few more than seven thousand pupils in attendance, the rival Catholic schools have five thousand. In Cincinnati he asserts that "nearly one-half of the children going to school are to be found in the Christian free schools," most of which are Catholic. As to Brooklyn and New York, the Right Reverned man seems ambiguous on purpose, when he says that in each city there are thirty thousand children "whose parents prefer Christian to public schools." Perhaps he means that in the two cities named sixty thousand children attend the priest's schools. Of a place somewhere in New England he has heard having "four hundred children in its Christian schools and only thirty in its common schools."

Bishop MCQUAID intimates that the sectarian character of the public schools is a very objectionable feature. He becomes the champion of liberalism, and calls upon "true lovers of an American system of schools to construct a platform so broad that all can stand on it without any betrayal of religion, and so just that Christians shall have rights equal with those of infidels." This platform, however, "must be large and solid, and able to hold all classes without discrimination—a platform broad enough to give a place to the poor infidel and Jew." To be sure. This, of course, means the exclusion of the Bible. And the Bishop says that "this is the platform on which we can stand, and the only one that we propose to accept or be satisfied with." But his Right Reverence, neither in this part of his address nor when speaking of the Catholic schools in operation, makes any mention of the public schools of St. Louis. Those schools are conceded on all hands to be among the best schools in the country, admirably sustained, admirably taught, admirably managed in every sense, and they are besides free from all sectarian character or bias. The Bible is not at all used in them. And yet the Catholic priests of St. Louis have established separate schools for Catholic children, denouncing the public schools as irreligious on account of the very feature which Bishop MCQUAID commends in certain schools of Canada, and recommends to the attention and imitation of "lovers of an American system."

No doubt the result would be the same in every case, soon or later. The Bible being used in the schools, they are objected to as sectarian; the Bible having been withdrawn, the schools are objected to as irreligious or even atheistic. Americans may as well make up their minds at once that the Catholic Bishops will approve of no schools which are not under priestly supervision, in which the doctrines of the church are not taught, and in which influence is not directly exerted in favor of the entire religio-political system of which the Pope is the head. History, if taught at all, must be so taught as to sustain the system, and no books may be used or tolerated the effect of which would be to suggest doubts concerning its divine sanctions of the gigantic despotism. Americans are much mistaken who fancy that the warfare waged by the Catholic hierarchy against the schools is, in any sense, merely defensive. It is, on the contrary, fiercely aggressive; the system assailed is clearly recognized as a deadly enemy of the system it undermines, as an embodiment of anti-Christ to be resisted and destroyed by whatever agencies Holy Church sanctions as legitimate weapons in the hands of her consecrated host.

THE BEST ROUTE.

The Louisville *Courier-Journal*, commenting upon the proposed canal line to the Atlantic seaboard, remarks:

The Pittsburgh people are very much afraid that by some hook or crook the Kanawha and James river canal extension project will become an established fact. Their newspapers claim that the central water line will leave Pittsburgh and the upper half of the Ohio river "out in the cold," and the business interests of Pittsburgh will suffer very seriously. They emphatically declare that the Youghiogheny or Monongahela line is far preferable to the Kanawha project. They declare that the "local interests" of the Youghiogheny line (meaning, of course, the interests of Pittsburgh) "have attained a national importance, while the latter practically would open only a wilderness." The Pittsburgh people and the upper Ohio river are impressed with the fact that coal can be obtained in West Virginia of a very excellent quality, at a cheaper rate than that now sold to them by the Pittsburgh dealers. They are impressed also with the fact that, if there is any virtue at all in water lines as trade outlets to the Atlantic, the Central line seems to offer as large advantages as can be expected. The Youghiogheny or Monongahela route may prove a very convenient and lucrative thing for Pittsburgh people, but is just a little out of the way for the dwellers along the lower Ohio.

We think it needs no argument to prove that the Monongahela and Youghiogheny line is preferable to the Kanawha, in view of the developments already made, and the immense trade now established in the Monongahela and Youghiogheny coal fields. Take the single item of coal alone: In 1864, 65,881,709 bushels of coal were shipped over the Monongahela slackwater, against 56,178,228 bushels in 1873—an increase of nearly 10,000,000 bushels for the year. In 1873, 3,279,500 bushels of coke were shipped by the same route; but last year, owing to the great depression in the iron and other industries, the shipments of coal fell off largely, only reaching 1,942,500 bushels. The tolls from all sources, on the Monongahela slackwater, for the past year, aggregated $215,463 93, against $206,551 80 in 1873—an increase of nearly $10,000, in a year of unparalleled depression.

This coal and coke finds its way to the cities of the West and South, including those on the "lower half" of the Ohio, and hence it is true that this trade has assumed "a national importance." It has been asserted, over and over again, that "coal can be obtained" elsewhere than at Pittsburgh, and at cheaper rates, for supplying the Western markets; but notwithstanding these reiterated assertions, our coal has steadily maintained its superiority for nearly all, if not for all, purposes for which it is required. The *Courier-Journal* does not claim that the West Virginia coal is superior to that of Pittsburgh, but only that it is of "very excellent quality." It is not asserted that the Central line would develop a larger trade and confer greater benefits upon the nation than the Monongahela line, but only that "it seems to offer as large advantages as can be expected."

As the improvements of the Ohio forms an important link in the general scheme, why make a "half-way" job of it? Why not follow it up to the headwaters, especially when, by so doing, the greatest coal producing and iron manufacturing center in the country can be reached, and placed in constant, easy and cheap communication with the great States East, West and South? Aside from the coal and iron trade, Pittsburgh is the depot of a large portion of the oil trade, commands to a considerable extent the iron and copper trade of the Northern lakes, and manufactures three-fourths of all the glass in the country. In a word, Pittsburgh is the head of the Ohio river trade, the greatest boat-building place in the West, and the beginning of the greatest stretch of inland navigation in the world. The nation is not blind to these facts; and surely the nation's representatives, when considering so important a project as a trans-Alleghany canal, will be able to appreciate the claims of the Monongahela and Youghiogheny coal fields, and the "upper half" of the Ohio.

THE NEW REBELLION.

That the Republican journals of the country have not been premature in treating the outbreak in Louisiana as the first step in a new Rebellion against the National Government, is convincingly corroborated by the action of the Democrats in the Virginia Legislature. On the 9th of this month, in the Senate of that State, Judge A. B. CONRAD, a Democratic Senator from Augusta county, and a prominent candidate for the position of Lieutenant Governor—soon to be vacated by the resignation of Mr. WITHERS—introduced the following joint resolution:

1. *Resolved*, by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia, That the Governors of the States composing the United States of America, and the same are hereby earnestly requested to convene, as soon as practicable, the Legislatures of their respective States, in order that the States may consult together and advise with each other respecting the late interference of the army of the United States with the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, and determine simultaneously and promptly what is necessary to be done to defend and preserve the independence and autonomy of the States.

2. *Resolved*, That the Governor of this Commonwealth be and he is hereby requested forthwith to telegraph these resolutions to the Governors of the several States, and request immediate replies.

3. *Resolved*, That this joint resolution shall be in force from its passage.

The immediate passage of these resolutions was urged by the leading Democratic Senators, and they, doubtless, express the feeling of all the hot-heads in that party. There are a few cool heads, it is true, who try out to go slow, and advise caution as necessary above all else; but they do not condemn the general purpose of reviving the old quarrel over the right of the States to secede, if things do not go to suit them.

That the resolutions we have quoted mean a new attempt at secession, is apparent from the debate which followed their introduction. Senator COCHRAN, their author, spoke of them as necessary to enable Virginia to "lead the way, as she has before led the way in similar emergencies;" and Senator PENN referred to them as an attempt to precipitate a new revolution. He said:

"What shall be said of us in Virginia, one of the States lately subjugated and punished for her participation in what they call a rebellion, if we assume to dictate to certain Southern States the policy of resistance such as the resolutions contemplate? Will not the cry of 'treason' and 'a new rebellion,' which has always been potent for mischief, be thundered again? What end, what tangible good is to be realized by the adoption of these resolutions and the revolutionary policy they contemplate? If this resistance does mean anything more than empty declamation, they mean resistance and revolution. Are we prepared to inaugurate revolution? Is it wise and proper that we should suggest it to the more powerful Commonwealths of the North?"

Senator PENN, being himself a Democrat, knows what the movements of his colleagues mean. He characterizes them, very properly, as revolutionary; and as they fit in harmoniously with the acts of the Louisiana Democrats, there can be little room for doubt that they are part of a common purpose, and incidents of a widespread conspiracy to renew the secession quarrel of 1861.

SLAVERY in Africa still engages the earnest attention of a numerous class in England. The impression produced by Dr. LIVINGSTONE'S letters, brought to England by STANLEY, and Sir BARTLE FRERE'S mission to Zanzibar, are probably well remembered by all who take an interest in the welfare of Africa. Sir SAMUEL BAKER'S expedition for the suppression of the slave trade on the Upper Nile, though started and sustained by the ruler of Egypt, really owed its origin to British opinion, and British hopes regarding the anti-slavery results of the expedition have largely colored and determined the British estimate of Sir SAMUEL BAKER'S achievements as recorded and published by himself in his last book. As therein exhibited the results of the expedition are certainly very mixed. The narrative is full of thrilling interest and leaves no doubt in the reader's mind as to Sir SAMUEL'S energy, shrewdness or heroism, but when one recollects, by an effort, that he was a champion of humanity and a minister of peace and good will, the effect is at first puzzling. Evidently the commander's benevolent anti-slavery compatriots, at least some of them who stay at home all the time, must have thought, when reading the book, that Exeter Hall never before had precisely such a representative in Africa. But it is easy to judge him unjustly. Possibly no one can fairly or fully appreciate some of his measures and methods without having had some of his experience in dealing with African tribes. No doubt, Sir SAMUEL BAKER, by his expedition has made some, it may be considerable, impression upon the nefarious traffic which he was sent to suppress. This is his own conviction, and he is too brave and clear-sighted a man to have made a mistake in such a matter. Followed up as his work is being followed up, the result in a few years may be expected to be the arrest of the atrocious trade on the Upper Nile.

On the Gold Coast the slave trade was formally declared abolished on the 3d of last November. This act may be mentioned as the chief result of the Ashantee war. The determination of the Ashantee King to make war on other tribes, for the purpose of taking captives and selling them into slavery, was the real cause of the costly British expedition against Coomassie. The Dutch had always tolerated the practice, and when the English acquired by treaty the Dutch trading post, they found themselves compelled either to patronize the Ashantee King's traffic, or make him stop it. On the 3d of November Governor STRAHAN, of Cape Coast Castle, met all the kings or chiefs of the tribes subject to or protected by his government. He made them a speech, in which he told them that from that day forward the slave trade was prohibited among them; that the Queen of England having conquered the King of Ashantee, they should no longer suffer or undertake slave-catching raids. The chiefs, it seems, were greatly surprised and by no means pleased. In fact, these expeditions have been the principal and almost the only means by which many of the chiefs have been enabled to replenish their exchequers or provide money wherewith to purchase such comforts and ornaments as they most value. The assembled chiefs therefore begged the Governor to allow them a day to think about what he had told them, to deliberate and decide whether or no they should agree to cease catching, buying and selling one another's people. The Governor then told them that they had misunderstood him, that they had no option in the matter, and that if they indulged in the prohibited practice, they would be punished; whereupon they dispersed sorrowful. They are, however, allowed to keep the slaves they now have, on condition of using them well.

THE Louisiana outbreak, and the attacks upon SHERIDAN and GRANT which have followed upon a revelation of the actual facts pertaining to the condition of affairs in that State, have had one blessed and happy result; they have driven out all heartburnings, jealousies and factiousness from the Republican ranks, and united our people into a solid phalanx for the defense of the time-honored principles endangered by these recent developments of the old rebel spirit. Congress is now prepared to act on the Louisiana question, decisively, and to sustain the President heartily. SHERIDAN will not be allowed to exterminate the banditti, summarily; but the banditti will not be allowed to rule, and the murderers and cut-throats of Colfax and Coushatta will for the present retire to the rear.

But, better than all, the Republican members of Congress have found their tongues, at last, and have assumed the aggressive, instead of acting meekly on the defensive. After allowing THURMAN, and BAYARD, and GORDON to utter their lying bluster unchecked, the Republicans of the Senate have drawn in a new inspiration of freedom, and their recent attacks upon the leaders of the Rebellion of 1861 sounds like the trumpet tones that aroused the nation in 1861. We are profoundly grateful to Senator LOGAN for his bold defiance of such impudent braggarts as GORDON, and for his thorough exposure of the Democratic plot to revive the spirit of secession. His manly speech must stir up a keen feeling of gratitude and approval throughout the North and West; and the politicians who indorse murder and assassination, intimidation and armed conspiracy to deprive the negroes of their votes and their rights, find, to their dismay, that they are to be confronted by an opposition they cannot overcome, and that their assaults upon SHERIDAN, the army, and the Administration have but served to arouse the old-time patriotic ardor of those who, having successfully coped with one Rebellion, will not shrink from encountering another.

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THE dictates of common sense are making themselves felt among the striking iron-workers and the country in other manufacturing centers than Pittsburgh. We learn from the Troy *Times* that thirteen hundred men connected with the works of the Messrs. BURDEN have signified their willingness to resume work under the reduction, and that about three hundred have decided to work in the mills of CORNING and Company. This includes all the men excepting the puddlers, and enough puddlers will go to work in BURDENS' steam mill to start at least fifteen furnaces, and perhaps twenty. By next Monday it is anticipated that all the furnaces, the latter, some forty in number, will be working. A number of furnaces have also been started in CORNING'S steam mill, and it is thought that general resumption of all the departments will immediately follow. The cause of this action on the employers' part is not that the iron trade has improved—it being even more depressed now than at any other time since the strike—but because they have been importuned for work by their men. The *Times* says that Messrs. BURDEN have been in receipt of numerous letters, setting forth the folly of resistance such as the resolutions contemplate? Will not the cry of 'treason' and 'a new rebellion,' which has always been potent for mischief, be thundered again? What end, what tangible good is to be realized by the adoption of these resolutions and the revolutionary policy they contemplate? If this resistance does mean anything more than empty declamation, they mean resistance and revolution. Are we prepared to inaugurate revolution? Is it wise and proper that we should suggest it to the more powerful Commonwealths of the North?"

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THE dictates of common sense are making themselves felt among the striking iron-workers and the country in other manufacturing centers than Pittsburgh. We learn from the Troy *Times* that thirteen hundred men connected with the works of the Messrs. BURDEN have signified their willingness to resume work under the reduction, and that about three hundred have decided to work in the mills of CORNING and Company. This includes all the men excepting the puddlers, and enough puddlers will go to work in BURDENS' steam mill to start at least fifteen furnaces, and perhaps twenty. By next Monday it is anticipated that all the furnaces, the latter, some forty in number, will be working. A number of furnaces have also been started in CORNING'S steam mill, and it is thought that general resumption of all the departments will immediately follow. The cause of this action on the employers' part is not that the iron trade has improved—it being even more depressed now than at any other time since the strike—but because they have been importuned for work by their men. The *Times* says that Messrs. BURDEN have been in receipt of numerous letters, setting forth the folly of resistance such as the resolutions contemplate? Will not the cry of 'treason' and 'a new rebellion,' which has always been potent for mischief, be thundered again? What end, what tangible good is to be realized by the adoption of these resolutions and the revolutionary policy they contemplate? If this resistance does mean anything more than empty declamation, they mean resistance and revolution. Are we prepared to inaugurate revolution? Is it wise and proper that we should suggest it to the more powerful Commonwealths of the North?"

Senator PENN, being himself a Democrat, knows what the movements of his colleagues mean. He characterizes them, very properly, as revolutionary; and as they fit in harmoniously with the acts of the Louisiana Democrats, there can be little room for doubt that they are part of a common purpose, and incidents of a widespread conspiracy to renew the secession quarrel of 1861.

SLAVERY in Africa still engages the earnest attention of a numerous class in England. The impression produced by Dr. LIVINGSTONE'S letters, brought to England by STANLEY, and Sir BARTLE FRERE'S mission to Zanzibar, are probably well remembered by all who take an interest in the welfare of Africa. Sir SAMUEL BAKER'S expedition for the suppression of the slave trade on the Upper Nile, though started and sustained by the ruler of Egypt, really owed its origin to British opinion, and British hopes regarding the anti-slavery results of the expedition have largely colored and determined the British estimate of Sir SAMUEL BAKER'S achievements as recorded and published by himself in his last book. As therein exhibited the results of the expedition are certainly very mixed. The narrative is full of thrilling interest and leaves no doubt in the reader's mind as to Sir SAMUEL'S energy, shrewdness or heroism, but when one recollects, by an effort, that he was a champion of humanity and a minister of peace and good will, the effect is at first puzzling. Evidently the commander's benevolent anti-slavery compatriots, at least some of them who stay at home all the time, must have thought, when reading the book, that Exeter Hall never before had precisely such a representative in Africa. But it is easy to judge him unjustly. Possibly no one can fairly or fully appreciate some of his measures and methods without having had some of his experience in dealing with African tribes. No doubt, Sir SAMUEL BAKER, by his expedition has made some, it may be considerable, impression upon the nefarious traffic which he was sent to suppress. This is his own conviction, and he is too brave and clear-sighted a man to have made a mistake in such a matter. Followed up as his work is being followed up, the result in a few years may be expected to be the arrest of the atrocious trade on the Upper Nile.

On the Gold Coast the slave trade was formally declared abolished on the 3d of last November. This act may be mentioned as the chief result of the Ashantee war. The determination of the Ashantee King to make war on other tribes, for the purpose of taking captives and selling them into slavery, was the real cause of the costly British expedition against Coomassie. The Dutch had always tolerated the practice, and when the English acquired by treaty the Dutch trading post, they found themselves compelled either to patronize the Ashantee King's traffic, or make him stop it. On the 3d of November Governor STRAHAN, of Cape Coast Castle, met all the kings or chiefs of the tribes subject to or protected by his government. He made them a speech, in which he told them that from that day forward the slave trade was prohibited among them; that the Queen of England having conquered the King of Ashantee, they should no longer suffer or undertake slave-catching raids. The chiefs, it seems, were greatly surprised and by no means pleased. In fact, these expeditions have been the principal and almost the only means by which many of the chiefs have been enabled to replenish their exchequers or provide money wherewith to purchase such comforts and ornaments as they most value. The assembled chiefs therefore begged the Governor to allow them a day to think about what he had told them, to deliberate and decide whether or no they should agree to cease catching, buying and selling one another's people. The Governor then told them that they had misunderstood him, that they had no option in the matter, and that if they indulged in the prohibited practice, they would be punished; whereupon they dispersed sorrowful. They are, however, allowed to keep the slaves they now have, on condition of using them well.

THE Louisiana outbreak, and the attacks upon SHERIDAN and GRANT which have followed upon a revelation of the actual facts pertaining to the condition of affairs in that State, have had one blessed and happy, result; they have driven out all heartburnings, jealousies and factiousness from the Republican ranks, and united our people into a solid phalanx for the defense of the time-honored principles endangered by these recent developments of the old rebel spirit. Congress is now prepared to act on the Louisiana question, decisively, and to sustain the President heartily. SHERIDAN will not be allowed to exterminate the banditti, summarily; but the banditti will not be allowed to rule, and the murderers and cut-throats of Colfax and Coushatta will for the present retire to the rear.

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